

# **Minutes of the Business Meeting of the Herpetologists' League**

**13 July 2007**

**Hyatt Regency, St. Louis, Missouri, USA**

President Ford called the meeting to order at 1710 h.

## **Meeting sites report – Mushinsky**

Mushinsky noted that next year the joint meeting will be in Montreal. It will be held in Portland in 2009, Providence in 2010, and Minneapolis in 2011. In 2012 the joint meeting will potentially meet jointly with the World Congress of Herpetology in North America, although the meeting site is not decided upon yet.

## **Invitation to the Joint Meeting in Montreal – David Green**

Green promoted Montreal as the 2008 meeting site. The meeting will be from July 23-28 at the Le Centre Sheraton in downtown Montreal. Montreal is a historic, bilingual city founded by the French. Attractions include the well-preserved Old City, a park on Mt. Royale designed by F. L. Olmsted, the second largest botanical garden in the world, the Biodome housing plants and animals in native Canadian biomes, ethnic neighborhoods, an enormous variety of restaurants, and easily accessible pubs and bars. The meeting reception will be at the Biodome, and the picnic will be at McGill University within easy walking distance from the hotel.

## **President's report – L. Ford**

Ford noted that the past year has been very active for HL. Of particular interest is the new HL website that has recently come on-line. Any suggestions for the website are welcomed. Additionally, HL welcomes David Cundall as the new Vice President.

## **Vice President's report – Cundall**

Cundall announced that the Membership and Long Range Planning Committees will be more active. He will be succeeding L. Ford as President in January of 2008. Cundall noted that he has been working with several past presidents to develop plans for the future of HL.

## **Treasurer's report – Smith**

Smith noted that HL currently has about \$248,000 in cash assets, and this represents a slight loss from last year. Membership has decreased by about 17%. HL has entered in a joint management agreement with SSAR, and AM&M now deals with membership renewals. This

should not greatly affect HL finances since costs for the treasurer's assistant will now go towards the agreement.

L. Ford added that HL members will now be able to renew their memberships by credit card, and they will also be able to change their membership data on the website. She suggested that members be sure their contact info is correct and to add their email address if it is not there. HL will now be able to send out renewal notices via email.

### **Secretary's report - Owen**

Owen announced that he plans to run future society elections electronically rather than on paper through the mail. This should reduce costs to the society and allow more effective participation from international members.

### **Publication Secretary's report – Mullin**

Mullin announced that he has back issues for HL publications and vols. 14-15 of *Biology of Reptilia* for sale, and this will be going on until 5 pm Sunday afternoon. He has sold 300 copies of various issues, and deals will get better later in the meeting. Proceeds will be transferred to the Treasurer's account.

Mullin noted that he has taken on the task of HL Webmaster. The new HL website is maintained through a financial arrangement with Tanglewood. He is currently working on a seamless login between the HL society page and the AM&M business page, and there will be web based forum for discussions. L. Ford and Mushinsky applauded the great job that Mullin has done as webmaster.

Mullin noted that *Herpetological Monographs* #1 will have second print run. HL should be able to obtain a hard copy from JSTOR to create a scanned version for new hard copies. Angela Fine noted that copies of HL publications sent to JSTOR or to AP for scanning to *pdfs* have been returned. Mullin noted that the single print run of 500 copies has been bid at \$4476, and the alternative option of print on demand would be \$2173 for 100 copies. Gregory Watkins-Colwell helped jumpstart the idea, and HL should be able to sell 200 copies very quickly. A price of \$20 per copy was thought to be a reasonable. A show of hands suggested that demand would be high.

### ***Herpetologica* Editor's report – Mathis**

Mathis was not able to be present for the Business Meeting. L. Ford noted that there has been a high turnover of associate editors, and that these editors perform high quality work. HL is currently working with AP on solving problems with Allen Track to try to improve the manuscript editing process.

### ***Herpetological Monographs* Editor's report – Fitzgerald**

Fitzgerald was not able to be present for the Business Meeting. L. Ford noted that he will be stepping down as editor, and he has done an excellent job for the past five years. The Nomination Committee consisting of Walls and Mitchell is currently searching for a replacement for Fitzgerald. Fitzgerald has noted that this position is not as hectic as *Herpetologica* Editor since it is published once a year, thus, authors are used to waiting longer periods for reviews. L. Ford noted that the new editors will be able to continue to work with the current managing editor.

### **Allen Press report – Angela Fine**

HL did better than last year financially, with approximately \$21,000 in royalties received. An increased stipend has been allocated to the managing editor. The budget will be adjusted for four-color covers in 2008. Subscriptions to the journals are similar to last year. AP is planning a sample promotion of *Herpetologica* to institutions and professors for next year, and ideas for appropriate audiences are welcomed.

### **Symposium Committee report – de Sá**

De Sá was not able to be present for the Business Meeting. L. Ford noted that the procedure for symposium submissions has been altered so that it can be chosen before the meeting of the Joint Meeting Planning Committee. Ford requested that if members are planning a symposium, they should download and examine the new procedure from the new HL website.

### **Graduate Research Award Committee report – Cundall**

Cundall noted that there was only one submission this year, so the award competition was canceled. A revision of the award was submitted to the HL Board of Trustees. Requirements for student competitors have slightly changed, and the name of the award has been changed to the "Herpetologists' League Graduate Research Award". Students will no longer have to submit an extended abstract, nor will abstracts be pre-judged prior to the joint meeting. The award will become more similar to the awards of the other societies. HL will give a total of five awards for the top presentations. Four will be travel awards of \$200, and this amount may be increased. The best presenter would receive \$500, 10 years of back issues, and an invitation to publish in *Herpetologica* or *Herpetological Monographs*. HL would commit to publish after successful peer review. These proposed changes passed unanimously at BOT meeting.

L. Ford noted that since the call for abstracts is now earlier, students have been afraid to commit to the award in its previous formulation. Cundall noted that the award will be changed to allow multiple authors as long as the student is senior author.

### **Conservation Committee report – Campbell**

Campbell was not able to attend, and the report was given by Rob Lovitch. Lovitch noted that the committee now has two new members: Malcolm McCallum and Steve Johnson. Todd Campbell is recruiting new members to bring the committee up to 12. There are three current committee issues: recruiting more members, addressing legal/education issues related to invasive species, and communicating with the SSAR and ASIH conservation committees. The HL Conservation Committee is currently working with personnel in the pet trade, trying to advance the cause of controlling the introduction of pet trade herps. The committee is reviewing the federal register for conservation related proposals. The Coachella Valley position letter has been drafted and sent. The committee is examining new Arizona species listings jointly with ASIH.

### **BioOne/AIBS report – Savitzky**

BioOne continues to be the primary vehicle for electronic distribution of the society journals to libraries, and a silo site gives access. AIBS is the umbrella organization for organismal and environmental biologists. Both organizations concern themselves with current trends and declines in student membership in organismal biology societies. Analyses tracking individual members demonstrate a failure to recruit young members as well as a failure of young members to maintain their memberships. AIBS is now discussing what the future of organismal societies will be.

Savitzky also noted that the Year of Science in 2009 is the Darwin Bicentennial, and the Coalition of Public Understanding of Science has requested participation of HL, which the Board of Trustees voted to join.

### **Herpetological Education Committee report – Bevier**

Bevier was not able to attend, and Mullin gave the report. Mullin noted that HL continues to receive questions from the public via the Herp Hotline operated by the Peabody Museum. Mendelson has stepped down, and the committee is looking for replacement for a point person for the hotline. In conjunction with ASIH and SSAR, the committee has updated the grant lists for herpetological research, and this has been posted on the new HL site as a *pdf*.

### **New Business**

L. Ford announced that HL has been approached by PARC concerning the upcoming symposium. “Amphibian Declines and Chytridiomycosis: Translating Science into Urgent Action” in November, 2007, in Tempe, AZ. The Board of Trustees voted to support the symposium with a \$500 contribution, and this should be good exposure for HL. Information will be posted on the

new website. The symposium will include involvement by governmental agencies as well as scientific societies.

L. Ford announced that HL has been named to receive royalties from Jones and Lovitch, *Lizards of the American Southwest, a Photographic Field Guide*. Approval for the contract is still needed from the Board of Trustees, but HL will be proceeding in good faith. The editors would like to see the royalties support herpetological conservation in the Southwest.

Savitsky noted that JSTOR and BioOne are jointly cooperating, and on the website visitors are now able to move seamlessly between the two. L. Ford added that nonmembers can enter through JSTOR and buy *Herpetologica* articles for \$10 and *Herpetological Monographs* articles for \$15 (profits of \$6 and \$11, respectively for the HL). This is a free program, and HL will not be charged to participate.

L. Ford announced that HL has been approached by the *Encyclopedia of Life* to put *Herpetologica* and *Herpetological Monographs* on the web for *pdf* access. However, HL will not currently take advantage of this offer since it is already covered by JSTOR.

President Ford adjourned the meeting at 1800 h.